

Introduced by Senator AshburnFebruary 24, 2006

An act to add Section 25216.8 to the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1705, as introduced, Ashburn. Energy: California Environmental Quality Act: expedited review.

Existing law establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission in the Resources Agency. Existing law imposes various duties related to energy on the commission, including requiring the commission to prescribe the form and content of applications for electric transmission lines and thermal powerplants, as specified, and conduct public hearings and take other actions to secure adequate evaluation of applications.

This bill would require the commission to develop and implement an expedited process for review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, for a project proposal to upgrade, replace, or modify energy infrastructure, as the bill would define that term, that will be undertaken along an existing energy corridor or utility right-of-way and that returns habitat on the corridor or right-of-way to pre-existing conditions or enhances the habitat environment.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 25216.8 is added to the Public
- 2 Resources Code, to read:

1 25216.8. (a) The commission shall develop and implement
2 an expedited process for review pursuant to Division 13
3 (commencing with Section 21000), for a project proposal to
4 upgrade, replace, or modify energy infrastructure that meets both
5 of the following requirements:

6 (1) The project will be undertaken along an existing energy
7 corridor or utility right-of-way.

8 (2) The project, at a minimum, returns habitat on the corridor
9 or right-of-way to pre-existing conditions or enhances the habitat
10 environment.

11 (b) For purposes of this section, “energy infrastructure”
12 includes, but is not limited to, petroleum, electric, natural gas, or
13 other energy-related infrastructure as determined by the
14 commission.